Replacement of MARR

3879. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Multiple Access Radio Relay system (MARR) chosen for rural telecom linkage has turned out to be technically deficient;

(b) whether an outlay of more than Rs. 980.00 crores was set apart for implementing MARR system;

(c) whether equipment/accessories relating to MARR system are lying in stores as surplus and unusable;

(d) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has severely commented upon the selection of MARR system;

(e) what other technically viable options are being examined to replace the MARR system; and

(f) the total number of villages supposed to have been covered by MARR and actual coverage achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Target for opening Post Offices in the Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plans

3880. SHRI ANANTA SETHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for setting up of post offices in the urban, rural, tribal and hilly areas of the State of Orissa during the Eighth and Ninth Plan period;

(b) the achievement made in this regard till date; and

(c) the steps taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The target fixed for setting up of post offices in urban, rural, tribal and hilly areas of State of Orissa during Eighth and Ninth Plan period are given in Statement-I *(See* below).

(b) The achievements made in that regard are given in Statement-II *(See* below).

(c) The achievement of remaining target is subject to the fulfilment of norm based justification and also the availability of required resources.